

Does Your Food Have Cooties?

How Lax Regulations Have Led To Food Contamination

The contamination of thousands of peanut products that sickened 600 people and killed at least nine in recent months has led many people to question the safety of the food we eat. But the food safety problem isn't just about peanuts. In the last several years, foods such as peppers, meat and milk have also been recalled due to contamination from harmful substances. Every year, 76 million people in the U.S. are made sick and 5,000 die from eating contaminated food, according to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many different federal, state and local agencies are responsible for overseeing food safety. Because so many agencies are involved, this system makes it hard to regulate foods. In addition, many of the agencies that are supposed to keep our food safe often rely on the food processing companies to test their own products rather than send an outside inspector. In the case of the peanut contamination,

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found that the Peanut Corporation of America knew about its contaminated products, but shipped the food for sale anyway.

"It's time for Congress to fix FDA's broken food safety system," said Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of the nonprofit consumer organization Food and Water Watch. Her organization is advocating for a bill in Congress called the Food Safety Modernization Act that would give the government more power to inspect food plants and make sure they are safe.



Sustainable Agriculture

Eating Safe Food

The average food product on our table travels 1,500 to 2,500 miles to get there, so it's hard to know where it came from or how it was made. Food production is now a profitable business controlled by a handful of multinational corporations like ConAgra, Cargill and Monsanto. This means that much of the food we eat is produced for the lowest cost possible often at the expense of safety and the environment.

There is a growing movement of people who want to know where their food comes from and how it was produced. The sustainable agriculture movement supports producing food locally using methods that are safe and that don't hurt the environment.

To learn about how to find food in your area that is produced locally and sustainably, visit www.eatwellguide.org

Inside the Cart:

Meat

February 2008: A southern Californian meat-packing company voluntarily recalled 143 million pounds of raw and frozen beef products. The meat was recalled after animal rights' activists released video showing sick animals that were unable to walk being abused and slaughtered for meat.

Peppers

July 2008: Jalapeño and serrano peppers grown in Mexico were identified as the source of a salmonella bacteria outbreak. At least 1,200 people fell ill, with 229 reported hospitalizations and two deaths.

Milk

October 2008: Baby formula and some products containing milk were recalled from stores around the world after melamine, a poisonous chemical, was found in Chinese milk products. Melamine had been illegally added to diluted milk products to raise their protein content. In China, at least six babies died and 300,000 became sick by the contamination.

Corn Syrup

January 2009: Two studies found mercury in high-fructose corn syrup, a sweetener made from corn used in many food products including soda pop, cereal and cookies. Mercury is a toxic substance that should not be ingested because it causes harm to body organs and the immune system.

Peanuts

January 2009: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration identified products from a peanut processing plant in Georgia as the source of a salmonella bacteria outbreak. The contaminated peanut products killed nine people and hospitalized 600.



Meet... **Diego** from Uruguay

Name: Diego Sosa Svirsky
Age: 10

Hometown: Montevideo,
neighborhood Parque Batlle

Languages Spoken: Spanish
and English

Family: Diego's parents
are psychiatrists

Siblings: Rodrigo, 18

Favorite Food: Milanesa
(a common Uruguayan dish similar
to chicken fried steak)

Hobbies: Playing soccer and video-
games, listening to music (Metallica
is his favorite band), playing guitar

Favorite subject in school: Recess

**What he wants to be when he
grows up:** Archeologist or musician

**Something Diego has heard about
life in the United States:** "George W.
Bush is crazy."



Uruguay at a Glance

Population: 3,477,778

Capital: Montevideo

Location: Southern South America,
bordering the South Atlantic Ocean,
between Argentina and Brazil

Language: Spanish

Religion: Roman Catholic (47%),
non-Catholic Christians (11%)

President: Tabare Vazquez

Ethnic Groups: White (88%),
Black (4%)

Government: Constitutional Republic
(Democracy)

Poverty Rate: 27.4%

Learn a little Spanish

Fútbol: Soccer

Asado: Barbeque

Música: Music

Dormir: To sleep

Ojotas: Flip-flops

Gaucha: A type of Uruguayan cowboy

CHILD PROFILE COMPILED BY NINA SVIRSKY & FANNY SOSENKE

\$663,700,000,000

That's how much President Obama wants to give to the U.S. military in 2010, more than President Bush gave and about half of the world's military spending

nation&world

Spending Program Signed into Law

There's something for everyone,
but will it fix the economy?

By AMANDA VENDER

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Re-investment Act into law on February 17. The biggest spending bill since World War II, the \$787 billion bill offers \$288 billion in tax cuts and \$499 billion for social programs. By providing money to help the poor, working people, the environment and other initiatives, the government hopes to provide jobs and help the economy.

"Today does not mark the end of our economic troubles. Nor does

it constitute all of what we must do to turn our economy around. But it does mark the beginning of the end," Obama said after he signed the bill.

Some economists, however, question the bill's ability to improve the country's economic problems. "The problem with the stimulus package is not that it helps the wrong people. For the most part, it helps the right people. But it's too small by a factor of about two-thirds," said journalist and economist Robert Kuttner on Democracy Now! news program.

How The Money Is Being Spent

\$288 Billion:	Tax Cuts, includes \$3.2 billion to General Motors.
\$144 Billion:	State and Local Fiscal Relief, includes \$87.1 billion to cover Medicaid costs in states.
\$111 Billion:	Infrastructure and Science, includes \$4.5 billion to expand broadband Internet access.
\$81 Billion:	Protecting the Vulnerable, includes \$20.9 billion for increased food assistance to individuals.
\$59 Billion:	Health Care, includes \$25.1 billion to pay for health coverage for the unemployed.
\$53 Billion:	Education and Training, includes \$15.6 billion to help low-income people go to college.
\$43 Billion:	Energy, includes \$11 billion to modernize the electric grid.
\$8 Billion:	Other, includes \$1 billion to help update social security databases.

SOURCES: RECOVERY.GOV, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Obama: Three More Years of War in Iraq And More Troops to Afghanistan

By ERIN THOMPSON
and AMANDA VENDER

During the presidential campaign, Barack Obama promised voters he would end the war in Iraq. On February 27, President Obama announced a plan to remove all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011.



SGT 1ST CLASS JIM DOWNEN U.S. ARMY

Members of the U.S. Army shoot a missile during an operation in Afghanistan in 2007. They say it is "to clear anti-government elements from the Dawzi area in Zabol province, Afghanistan."

For Larry Syverson of Richmond, VA, a father of three sons who have served in Iraq, this is not good enough. "The American people and the Iraqi people want this war to end. If President Obama is not willing to end it once and for all, then Congress will have to force him to by refusing to fund its continuation," he said. Syverson's organization, Military Families Speak Out, is urging people to call their members of Congress to tell them to stop funding the war.

In Afghanistan, one of the poorest nations in the world, Obama has ordered an expansion of the fighting saying, in a speech to Congress, "I will not allow terrorists to plot against the American people from safe havens half a world away." In February, Obama ordered 17,000 new troops to deploy to Afghanistan. The total number of U.S. troops there will reach 55,000 by the summer.

More than 2,000 Afghan civilians were killed due to fighting in

Afghanistan in 2008, according to a report by the United Nations. U.S.-led forces were to blame for nearly 40 percent of the civilian deaths.

THE COST OF WAR SO FAR:

IRAQ WAR:

U.S. Invaded: March 19, 2003

Money Spent: \$597 billion

Iraqis Killed: 1,311,696 (estimated)

U.S. Troops Killed: 4,254

U.S. Troops Currently in Iraq: 147,000

AFGHANISTAN WAR:

U.S. Invaded: October 7, 2001

Money Spent: \$173 billion

Afghans Killed: 10,000-30,000
(estimated)

U.S. Troops Killed: 656

**U.S. Troops Currently in
Afghanistan:** 38,000

24: Number of U.S. soldiers who killed themselves in January 2009, more than the total number killed in both Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

indykids!

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. **IndyKids** is funded through donations and grants.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Children's PressLine: www.cplmedia.org
Common Language Project: www.commonlanguageproject.net
New York Collective of Radical Educators: www.nycore.org
New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact **IndyKids!** Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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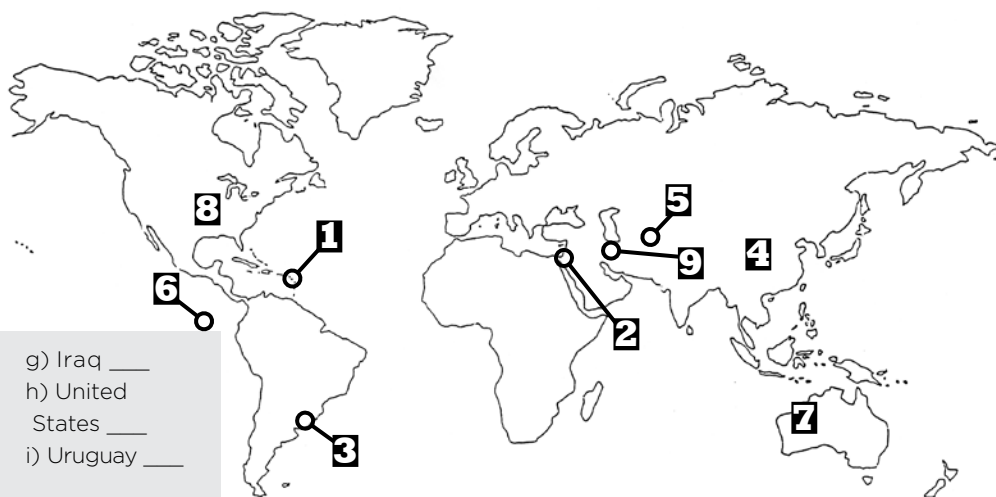
Blue Star: \$50

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• Isis Phillips
• Ritu Sood
• Helen Stavrou & Tom Grannell

WANT TO DONATE? It's easy. Just log on to indykids.net and click the "Donate" button. Your money will help keep **IndyKids** strong.

Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers at bottom of this page.



- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| a) Afghanistan | e) Galápagos Islands | g) Iraq |
| b) Australia | (Ecuador) | h) United States |
| c) Antigua (Caribbean) | f) Palestine/Israel | i) Uruguay |
| d) China | | |

Judges Caught Taking Money for Sending Kids to Jail

By ERIN THOMPSON

For most kids, putting up a spoof MySpace page of a school official, throwing a pillow at someone, or getting in a fight might end in getting grounded by parents, or even suspended from school. But, for some kids in Pennsylvania, these and many other minor pranks or first-time violations of the law meant months or years in jail.

That's because the judge that sentenced them was being paid to send kids to jail so that the jails could make more money. Judge Mark Ciavarella, who sentenced 5,000 kids since 2002, was one of two judges who admitted in February to taking \$2.6 million in bribes from the Pennsylvania Child Care

and Western Pennsylvania Child Care detention facilities.

The other judge, former County Senior Judge Michael Conahan, recommended shutting down the county-run (non-profit) jail in 2002 and approving government contracts with the for-profit jails. Both judges are now no longer allowed to practice law and are facing seven years in prison.

For kids who had to serve time in the detention centers, however, the damage has been done. "It just makes me really question other authority figures and people that we're supposed to look up to and trust," said Jamie Quinn, who was 14 when she was sentenced to a year in one of the jails for a fight with her friend. Quinn told the news program Democracy Now!



Corrupt judges Mark Ciavarella (left) and Michael Conahan (right) sent kids to detention centers for minor offenses.

about how she was put on medication, became depressed and began cutting herself, and fell behind in school during her time in the facility.

Hundreds of families of kids who were sentenced to the detention centers are now filing a class action lawsuit against the judges.

Undocumented Immigrant Teens Face Few Options

By INDYKIDS STAFF

When Rosario Moreno came to New York City with her family in 2005, she was "excited to go live in one of the biggest countries in the world." Moreno, who is 18 years old, soon learned how tough it is to live in the United States without legal documentation.

"Being an immigrant is the hardest thing in United States of America, especially when you are young," Moreno said. "Starting college made me realize how many advantages that I missed and am still missing today because of my immigrant status."

Undocumented immigrant children, many of whom have lived in the United States for most of their lives, face obstacles to higher education, cannot work legally in the United States and live in fear of deportation.

One solution offered to this problem is the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would give conditional residency status to kids of immigrant parents. The act would allow undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 and who have been in the United States for at least five years to obtain temporary residency status. In order to be able to apply for permanent residency, however, immigrants would have to either attend two years of college or serve two years in the U.S. military.

The military service requirement has some advocates thinking twice about the bill. "As teachers, we support the DREAM Act and what it can offer for immigrant students," said Edwin Mayora of the New York Collective of Radical Educators. "But we're concerned that many people will end up in the



Students in Colorado rally in support of the DREAM Act in 2007.

military in order to get residency status rather than because they want to be there."

Supporters are hopeful that the bill will become law in 2009. "With a new presidential administration, we are highly optimistic that the DREAM Act will pass this year," said Marisol Ramos of the New York State Youth Leadership Council.

newsbriefs

'Post' Cartoon Uproar



Protesters gathered on February 19 at the *New York Post's* office in New York City to express their anger over a cartoon that depicts two police officers shooting a monkey, while one of them comments about President Obama's stimulus package. The protesters accused the Post of associating President Obama with a monkey being shot, but the *Post* denied any racist or violent motivation.

Activist Stops Land Sales

The Obama Administration reversed the sale on 77 parcels of land adjoining Utah's national parks. In December, the Bush Administration pushed through a last-minute auction of nearly 150,000 acres of public wilderness to oil and gas companies. The sale was interrupted by environmental activist Tim DeChristopher, who purchased \$1.8 million worth of land with money he didn't have. DeChristopher could still face charges of fraud.

Jobless Woes

Employers slashed 598,000 jobs in the United States in January bringing the official number of unemployed people to 11.6 million or 7.6 percent of workers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Stolen Art Sold in Paris Auction

The buyer of two Chinese bronze statues has said he will refuse to pay the \$35.9 million price tag and that the statues should be returned to China. Christie's auction house, one of the largest art businesses in the world, ignored protests from the Chinese government and sold two bronze animal statues in February. China says the statues were stolen from the summer Imperial Palace, near Beijing, almost 150 years ago. The Palace was looted by the British and French during the second Opium War in 1860.

U.S. Provides Arms to Israel

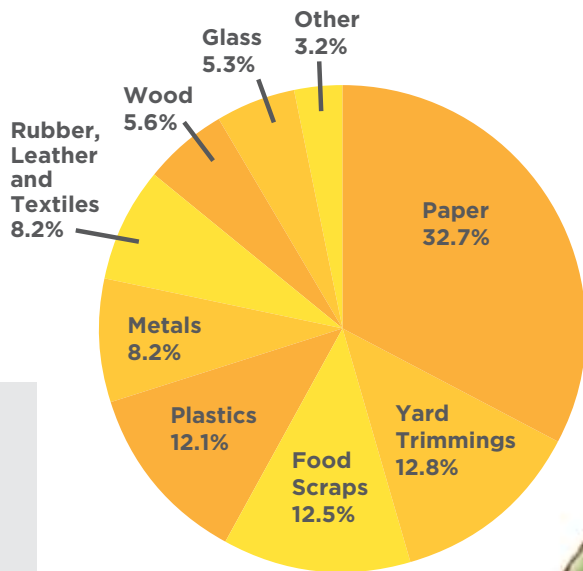
The United States supplied the white phosphorus bombs that Israel used against the Palestinians in Gaza in January, according to the human rights group Amnesty International. The human rights group called the use of white phosphorus on a civilian population a war crime. White phosphorus is a highly flammable substance which can cause serious burns and death to people. The United States is the largest arms supplier to Israel. Under a deal brokered by the Bush administration, it will provide \$30 billion to Israel through 2017.

Who Is Responsible for Trash?

Earth Day is April 22, a day for environmental awareness and thinking about how we can become more green. Here’s a different look at who creates waste, where it goes and who should be held responsible.

What Makes Up Our Trash?

SOURCE: EPA



From Home to Landfill in Minutes



By OCTAVIA DAVIS

The United States continues to be the most wasteful nation on earth, and things are getting worse every year. Since 1960, the amount of trash the average person throws away has nearly doubled, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Most of our household trash is paper, with each person using about one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products per year according to the EPA. Food scraps make up another big chunk of garbage. In fact, more than a quarter of the edible food bought for consumption ends up in the trash.

When we buy things, we start discarding them immediately by removing and throwing away the packaging. Unnecessary packaging, however, is only a fraction of the total waste. The system that produces our goods is so inefficient that after six months, only about one percent of everything used up is still around for us to enjoy.

Where does all the trash go? According to the EPA, 54 percent of common household waste goes to landfills. Since 1990, the total amount of household garbage pumped into landfills has dropped from 142.3 million to 137.2 million tons per year. Some researchers attribute this decrease to recycling and burning more trash to produce energy, which also creates pollution.

What Happens to Recyclables?



1.

First, recyclable materials are collected at the curb, at a drop-off center, a buy-back center or through a deposit program (like the bottle return program).

2.

After being sorted, the recyclables are then sent to a processing company under contract with the town or city. There they are washed and sorted further. Machines separate recyclables by weight. Magnets are used to separate metals. Glass must be sorted by hand by the color of the glass.

3.

Companies that want the materials buy them from the processing company and make them into something else. With the economic slump, however, more recyclable materials are going to landfills because people are buying less. Therefore, companies are producing smaller numbers of products.

4.

Consumers buy products made with recycled materials.



How Much of What Is Produced Gets Recycled?

Paper	50%
Aluminum	40%
Glass	24%
Plastic	68%

SOURCE: EPA

“The system that produces our goods is so inefficient that after six months, only about one percent of everything used up is still around for us to enjoy.”

Individual Garbage vs. Industrial Garbage

Municipal Solid Waste
garbage from homes, schools, hotels, shops and offices

254 million tons

Industrial Waste
garbage from mining, agriculture and manufacturing

7600 million tons

SOURCE: EPA

A Brief History of Bottles and Cans

Beverage companies produce the packaging; people pay for disposal

Large corporations profit from making disposable products that end up as waste. To avoid paying for the waste they make, these corporations launched public ad campaigns to make people feel personally responsible for garbage. Here’s how they did it:

1930s: Virtually 100 percent of beverage bottles were sold in refillable glass bottles. These bottles were collected by local drink manufacturers, who washed them and refilled them many times before they were thrown away.

1940s: After World War II, beverage companies started using disposable metal beverage cans to make a greater profit. Cans are cheap to produce and eliminate the cost of transporting refillable containers.

1953: Vermont passed the first law banning the sale of non-refillable beverage bottles. Fearing that more states would adopt similar laws, a group of beverage and bottle companies created the Keep America Beautiful organization, which promoted litter prevention through personal responsibility.

1971: In response to growing public concern about environmental damage, Keep America Beautiful launched an ad featuring a Native American crying over litter in the environment. The message of the ad promoted personal responsibility with the tagline, “People start pollution; people can stop it.”



1980s: Increased public awareness put pressure on drink manufacturers and bottlers who were producing large amounts of waste from their products. Beverage companies like Coca-Cola, Pepsico and Coors, along with bottle manufacturers, began promoting recycling. Instead of corporations paying for recycling, the public pays for it through tax dollars.

10 Things You Can Do

1. Reduce! Because so little is recycled, reducing your consumption is the best way to help the environment. Make a list of ways your family can cut down.
2. Reuse! Use old newspaper as wrapping paper, reuse plastic bags or bring your own bags. Can you think of more ideas?
3. Recycle! Buy products that contain recycled materials. You can even recycle old electronics, batteries and appliances. See earth911.com for where to drop them off.
4. Does your school recycle? Are there enough recycling bins on the street in your community? If not, call or write to your local official and ask why. Start a letter or phone campaign with your friends.
5. Stop junk mail. Call the 1-800 number on unwanted catalogs and ask that they no longer be sent.
6. Choose products wrapped in the least amount of packaging.
7. Use public transportation.
8. Be a vegetarian. Raising animals for food produces a lot more waste than growing vegetables.
9. Start an environmental club at your school to raise awareness.
10. Don’t get discouraged! Educate yourself, your parents, friends and neighbors.

By OCTAVIA DAVIS, MIKE NEWTON, SHEBA SETHI, ERIN THOMPSON and AMANDA VENDER. Illustration by GUERRUNTZ



FLICKR.COM/SHYGANTIC

Elephant Trial

Animal rights groups and Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus went to court in February to decide if the circus is violating the Endangered Species Act by mistreating elephants. Circus employees handle elephants with sharply pointed tools, called bull-hooks, and keep them in chains for days. John Simpson, defense lawyer for the circus, says the elephants "enjoy this experience," but animal rights groups say the animals are suffering.



ROBIN HUTTON

Fires in Australia

Since early February, raging fires in Victoria, Australia have killed 181 people and millions of animals and destroyed nearly 2,000 homes. Although investigators say that some of the fires were purposely set, the heat wave, drought and fires were made worse by global warming, according to the Australian National Climate Centre.

Gator Facts



FLICKR.COM/PANDIYAN

The American alligator is the largest reptile in North America.

What is a group of alligators called?

A congregation.

How to tell an alligator from a crocodile?

If only the upper teeth show when its mouth is closed, it's an alligator.

150 gallons

That's how much water the average U.S. resident uses per day.

science&culture

'FLOW': For Love of Water

A new documentary on the world's water supply

By MAYA DAVIS

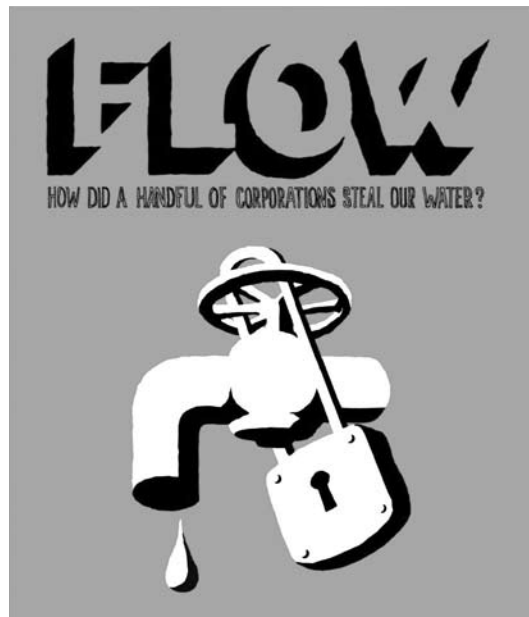
The documentary *Flow*, directed by Irena Salina, is about the lack of drinking water on planet Earth. The film demonstrates ways countries have solved their water problems. For example, when a village in India ran out of water, the townspeople dug a huge trench to collect rainwater, and now they have enough to grow abundant crops. Others use UV light to clean the water, so the residents don't have to drink dirty river water. The cost

of the clean water is only two dollars per year per person.

The documentary also shows that the United States uses the most water. The average resident of the United States uses 150 gallons per day, but people in non-industrialized countries rarely use five.

Flow is also useful as a way to teach viewers how to resist corporate privatization of water through protesting and other forms of direct action.

Maya Davis, 12, lives in Queens, New York



ALLIANCE FOR WATER EFFICIENCY

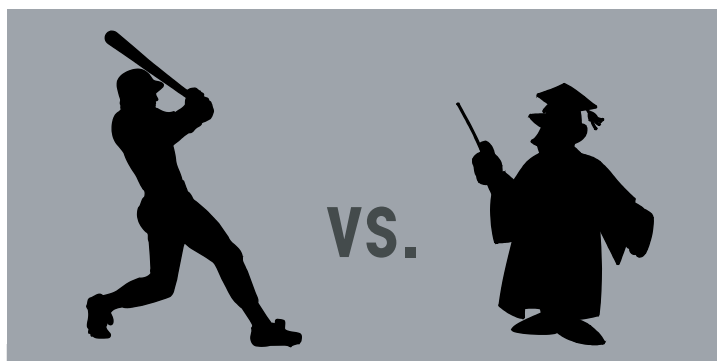
A-Rod Admits to Taking Steroids

As baseball spring training got underway, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez admitted to taking steroids, or illegal drugs that make you stronger, from 2001 to 2003. Rodriguez described himself as "young and stupid" at the time. He is the highest-paid player in Major League Baseball.



KEITH ALLISON

Alex Rodriguez, New York Yankees third baseman.



SOLVE THIS PROBLEM

The highest-paid baseball player in the United States makes about **\$28,000,000** a year. A public school teacher in the United States makes on average about **\$50,000** a year.

About how many teachers could you pay with just one baseball player's salary?

For answer, see bottom of page 2.

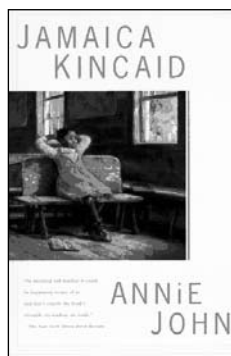
Math quiz by Siara Marion and Joshua Alamonte, fifth graders at PS 34 in New York City

Book Review: 'Annie John' by Jamaica Kincaid

By MIRIAM ARANOFF

Annie John (1985), by Jamaica Kincaid, tells the story of a ten-year-old girl from Antigua, an island in the Caribbean. Throughout the book, Annie struggles with managing her desire to cut off, and at the same time to preserve her roots. What makes Annie's character so attractive is that instead of being drawn to the extremes of love and hate or staying home and running away, Annie lives in the gray area of struggle.

Annie is shocked by the sudden coldness she feels in her mother and the ever-widening distance between herself and her home. As a result, Annie rebels.



Columbus in chains, to her habit of secretly attending the funerals of strangers so that she could see dead bodies, Annie

is constantly filled with inner-conflict. She secretly befriends a wild girl and plays marbles against her mother's wishes. Though Annie's rebelliousness may seem courageous, from her admiration in class of a photo of Christopher

is constantly filled with inner-conflict.

The book ends with Annie trying to leave home, but the reader is left without knowing if Annie will be happy. The unknown direction that Annie will follow is an appropriate end for a character that is deeply torn about the decisions she makes.

This book is a reflection of the author's own experience as a girl. Jamaica Kincaid was born in Antigua in 1949. She moved to New York City as a teenager and first worked as a nanny and later a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. She is currently a writer and university professor.

your turn

Some adults feel that *IndyKids* should not print news about certain topics such as innocent people who are killed and the death penalty in the U.S. They are concerned that reading about these events will frighten kids. What do you think? Fifth graders from PS 34 in Manhattan, New York City, offer their opinions.



"Kids should be able to read about these topics. If *IndyKids* left this important information out then the kids wouldn't learn it so it would hurt their education."

-Maria Paulino



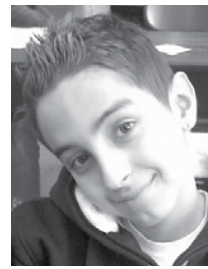
"Kids should learn about what is happening in the U.S. and the world. Also, kids should have the right to learn about the innocent being killed and war, also the death penalty in the U.S."

-Jahlill Young



"I think *IndyKids* should print news topics about innocent people who are killed and the death penalty in the U.S. I would feel like I didn't learn anything if *IndyKids* left this information out."

-Emily Bernard



"When we read *IndyKids* we learn more about the world. We learned in *IndyKids* that people are getting killed because of their religion. I think that is wrong because I would not like to die because of my religion."

-Jovani Nieves



"Yes, I do think kids should know about this. I think we should learn in *IndyKids* about other stuff that happens so we can get a heads up on what's going to happen."

-Antonio Urbaez



Someday, you could be an: } Environmental Scientist just like: Anna Cederstav

By ILONA BRAY

With a PhD in chemistry, Anna turned down high-paying jobs at chemical companies to work as staff scientist at Earthjustice and program director at a sister organization, the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA). Both groups, staffed mostly by lawyers, fight environmental damage worldwide. Besides helping organize and strategize, Anna makes sure the lawyers get their scientific facts straight!

IndyKids: Did you know as a kid that you wanted to become an environmental scientist?

Anna Cederstav: I knew I wanted to make the world better. I grew up in Sweden, where nobody's land is completely "private." You can camp in someone's front yard if you want. So I understood that we all have a right and a duty to protect the earth we share.

IK: How does your work let you bring about change in the world?

AC: It's a one-two punch: We figure out the root scientific causes of environmental problems, and

then use the legal system, education, and political pressure to create solutions.

IK: What's been a high point in your job?

AC: We helped pressure the Costa Rican government into canceling an oil-drilling project. That saved beaches, wetlands, and the lives of dolphins, fish and endangered marine turtles.

IK: Do you travel much?

AC: I've visited some of the most spectacular and dreariest places in the hemisphere—from beaches and rainforests needing protection to open mine pits and places people were being exploited by big corporations.

IK: Any tips for kids interested in environmental science?

AC: Do your math and chemistry homework. Then go to college, and get an advanced degree. Also, get active now, like by starting a global warming club at school to educate other kids and their families.

For more information: See www.earthjustice.org and www.aida-americas.org.

your views

The following letters were sent to *IndyKids* from fourth and fifth graders at the Berkeley Montessori School in Berkeley, California

I think it was a really intelligent and creative act when Tim DeChristopher pretended to buy 22,000 acres of land. I hope the land that he didn't buy will get saved too. I also hope he doesn't go to jail.

Gabe Soule

I think President Barack Obama should not have Robert Gates and Hillary Clinton on his cabinet. Obama doesn't want war and Robert and Hillary want to send more troops to war and that's not good for the troops or the place they are attacking.

Caitlinn Mann



Why did Obama pick Hillary Clinton as his Secretary of State? I think he's being selfish because he only wants her supporters.

Priya Ford

In "Greeks Denounce Police Brutality" in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue, it's not fair that the police shot and killed that boy. Even though you did not say why the police killed him, the police should be brought to justice.

Julian Davis

I think that the issue of the Wal-Mart trampling is very serious, because people are caring about themselves and aren't being careful. Because of that someone was trampled to death.

Peter Worthington

I think that Muntazar Al-Zaidi was right to throw his shoes at Bush because Bush couldn't stop the war and all the troops he sent to Iraq killed a lot of people. I hope Obama does what he says so no one will throw shoes at him.

Sarah Folkmanis

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TREND WATCH: Kaffiyeh

By PEDRO LAHOZ WOLFE

In many schools, donning a checked scarf called a kaffiyeh (pronounced “Kuh-FEE-ah”) is all the rage. Here’s a look at the scarf’s origins.



HANNAH ROSENTHAL

1. A kaffiyeh is a traditional headress for Arab men. It is worn throughout the Middle East.
2. In the 1930’s the kaffiyeh became a symbol of Palestinian resistance to British occupation. Today people around the world wear the kaffiyeh to show solidarity with the people of Palestine.
3. White kaffiyehs are popular in the gulf states. Palestinians mostly wear black and white kaffiyehs while Jordanians wear red and white ones. Other colors are made for the fashion and tourist industry.

–Pedro Lahoz Wolfe, 8, lives in New York City

Sarah Parks and Isaiah Perez from PS 34 in New York City sport their kaffiyehs.



WOW!

Are you thirsty? Think before grabbing that water bottle or can of soda!

According to the Container Recycling Institute, in 2006 (A) billion plastic, glass and aluminum beverage bottles and cans were sold in the U.S.; (B) % of these were not recycled.



FLICKR.COM/KINGDESMOND

- Take a guess.
Answers on page 2. And head for the water fountain to quench your thirst.

What’s Going On in this Photo?



JIMMY CARTER LIBRARY

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter installed solar panels on the roof of the White House to provide hot water for the building. The panels were removed in 1986 under the Reagan presidency.

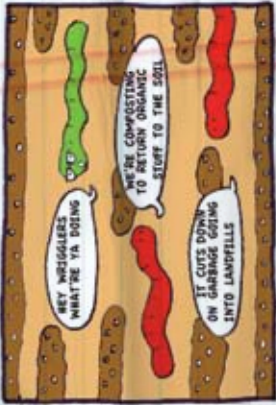


LYDIA CONKLIN

“I can promise you - climate change is a nonissue.”

WILTON THE WORM

By XAVIER TAYO



ELLIOTT AND FRY

Who Am I?

1. If I were still alive, I would have had my 200th birthday on February 12.
2. I made a five-year scientific voyage around the world on a ship called the HMS Beagle.
3. I made important discoveries, but I kept them secret for about 20 years, in part because I knew my findings would be controversial.
4. I am best known for my theory of evolution. Evolution is the theory that organisms in nature change over generations and result in the development of new species.

Answer: Charles Darwin